

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims 97, 98 and 100 and CANCEL claims 78, 82-84, 86-89, 94-96 and 99 in accordance with the following:

1-96. (CANCELLED)

97. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A point management system employing a computer for managing points issued according to transactions under identification of a customer, comprising;

a customer identification unit to identify said customer according to customer identification information obtained from a terminal operatively connected to said point management system via a communication link;

a point issuing unit to issue points according to said transactions under said identification by said customer identification unit;

a point management unit to manage said points of said customer by calculating a balance point of said customer according to transactions performed by said customer; and

a point sending unit to send said balance point of said customer to said terminal in response to identification of the customer based on said customer identification information and prior to a transaction made using said terminal in an event that said identification is succeeded.

98. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for managing points issued according to transactions under identification of a customer in a system connected to a terminal via a communication link, comprising;

identifying said customer according to customer identification information obtained from said terminal;

issuing points according to said transactions under said identification;

managing said points of said customer by calculating a balance point of said customer according to transactions performed by said customer; and

sending said balance point of said customer to said terminal in response to identification

of the customer based on said customer identification information and prior to a transaction made using said terminal in an event that said identification is succeeded.

99. (CANCELLED)

100. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A point management system employing a computer for managing points issued according to transactions under identification of a customer, comprising:

a customer identification unit to identify said customer according to customer identification information;

a point issuing unit to issue said points according to said transactions under said identification by said customer identification unit;

a point management unit to manage said points of said customer by calculating a balance point of said customer according to transactions performed by said customer; and

a point sending unit to send said balance point of said customer to a terminal operatively connected to said point management system via a communication link in response to identification of the customer based on said customer identification information and, prior to said transaction made using said terminal, in an event that said identification is succeeded based on said customer identification information obtained from said terminal via said communication link.